**Lowest Plant load factor in Bihar**

74. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar has the lowest plant load factor and one of the highest in transmission and distribution losses in respect of electricity for the last several years; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The Plant Load Factor of thermal power stations in Bihar has been much below the national average while transmission and distribution losses have been above the All India Level for several years.

(b) In order to improve the performance of Patratu and Barauni thermal power stations, comprehensive renovation and modernisation schemes have been prepared and are being implemented.

Various measures for implementation have been suggested which would help reduce the transmission and distribution losses.

**Electrification of Viliages in Bihar**

75. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the target and actual achievement of electrification of villages in Bihar during the last three years; and

(b) by what year Government propose to electrify all the villages of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The target and actual achievement of electrification of villages in Bihar during the last three years has been as under:-

| Year | Target | Achievement |
|---|---|---|
| 1983-84 . . | 4500 | 3607 |
| 1984-85 . . | 3000 | 603 |
| 1985-86 . . | 2000 | 2120 (provisional) |

(b) Cent per cent electrification of villages in Bihar would be achieved by mid-nineties subject to availability of resources.

**Stockyards of coal in Bihar**

76. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal has 29 stockyards of coal whereas Bihar with a larger population has only two stockyards; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A committee was constituted by Coal India Ltd. to go into the working of sockyards of Coal India. The Committee has since submitted its report which is under the consideration of CIL Board. Any new sockyards can be opened only after a view is taken on the recommendations of the Committee.

**Domestic consumption of coal by group 'C' consumers**

77. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that group 'C' consumers of coal consists of domestic consumption and brick burning and only 20 per cent to 30 per cent of the intended wagons are supplied actually and as such the prices of coal for such uses has gone very high; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Coal is covered in item (iii) of Priority 'C' of the Preferential Traffic Schedule General Order No. 74 issued by the Department of Railways. The priorities for different classes of consumers for allotment of wagons for movement of coal are given

in Annexure 'B' to this order. Domestic soft coke comes under class 'M' and Brick works comes under class 'O'. The movement of coal for domestic consumption and brick burning are covered by these priorities.

As far as soft coke is concerned, it is moved both by rail and by road depending on the distance from the collieries, and, generally there is no problem in availability of wagons for movement of soft coke.

In the case of coal for brick burning, during the six months period ending February, '86, 142 rakes were loaded. The loading would have been higher but for cancellation of 78 rakes by the consumers. The Government will continue to provide all transport facilities for coal offered to these consumers in future, provided the consumers accept the rakes allotted.

**Computerisation of Madras Telephones**

78. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to computerise the entire telephone system in Madras City before the end of this year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) There are no proposals under the consideration of Government to computerise the entire telephone system of Madras City before the end of this year. However an In-house computer will be installed in the course of this year and will be used for telephone billing to start with. Other functions like directory compilation and directory enquiry etc. are planned for computerisation. Computer controlled telephone exchanges have also been installed at Nungambakkam, Anna Road and Flower Bazaar.

**Expansion of Barauni Refinery**

79. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the feasibility report pertaining to the expansion of Barauni Refinery was prepared quite a long back;

(b) whether the same could not be implemented for want of resources;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) what further steps are being taken by Government to proceed with the expansion programme in order to make the refinery commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On the basis of several techno-economic considerations expansion of the Barauni refinery was not considered necessary.

(d) The Barauni refinery is commercially viable with the existing capacity.

**Reduction of petrol prices**

80. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is at present considering to reduce the petrol price in India due to low price of crude in International market; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.